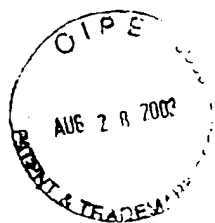


Sterne Kessler
Goldstein Fox



August 28, 2003

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER:

(202) 372-8645

INTERNET ADDRESS:

JASONE@SKGF.COM

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/753,664; Filed: January 4, 2001
For: **High Density Metal Capacitor Using Via Etched Stopping Layer as Field Dielectric in Dual-Damascene Interconnect Process**
Inventor(s): Liming Tsau
Our Ref: 1875.0230000

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

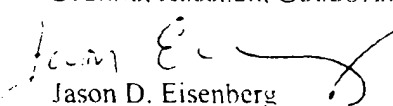
1. Amendment and Reply under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116; and
2. Return postcard.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


Jason D. Eisenberg
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 43,447

JDE:mmb

SKGF-DC-1729511



**Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
Expedited Procedure - Art Unit 2823**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Liming Tsau

Appl. No. 09/753,664

Filed: January 4, 2001

For: **High Density Metal Capacitor
Using Via Etched Stopping Layer
as Field Dielectric in Dual-
Damascene Interconnect Process**

Confirmation No.: 1902

Art Unit: 2823

Examiner: K. Nguyen

Atty. Docket: 1875.0230000

**Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 and in the Revised Format
of the Pre-OG Notice Dated January 31, 2003**

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the Office Action dated **July 15, 2003**, (PTO Prosecution File Wrapper Paper No. 15), Applicant submits the following Amendment and Remarks. This Amendment is provided in the format approved in the pre-OG Notice dated January 31, 2003, entitled, "Amendments In A Revised Format Now Permitted," and in the following format:

- (A) Each section begins on a separate sheet;
- (B) Starting on a separate sheet, a complete listing of all of the claims:
 - in ascending order;
 - with status identifiers; and
 - with markings in the currently amended claims;
- (C) Starting on a separate sheet, amendments to the specification by presenting replacement paragraphs marked up to show changes made;
- (D) Starting on a separate sheet, the Remarks.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and any fees required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) are hereby authorized to be charged to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.